

Technology Lessons 4 Teachers

NEWSLETTER

Feature Application



SnagLearning: <http://learning.snagfilms.com>

SnagLearning features carefully selected films from **SnagFilms'** award-winning library of over 1,600 high quality, free, documentaries that are appropriate for students from middle school & up. Their titles cover nearly every classroom subject & many are produced by well-known educational sources, including PBS & National Geographic. The goal of this site is to highlight documentaries that make for engaging educational tools.

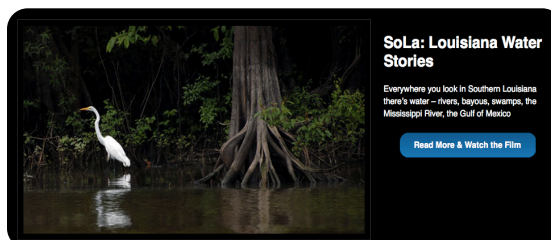
Teachers can submit & share their own lesson plans, quizzes & homework ideas with fellow educators. The commenting area on each film page functions as public forum to share & discuss, with leading questions to help along the discussion.

SnagLearning will add new films to its roster

every week; so don't forget to bookmark this site & check back for new titles.

Films to check out:

- *Independent American - Rising from Ruins*. This film documents the economic recovery efforts in post-Katrina New Orleans.
- *Search for the Afghan Girl*. In 1984, photographer Steve McCurry, took a photograph of a refugee girl with haunting eyes that have captivated the world. 20 years later, McCurry is in search for this girl.



iPod Update

Puppet Pals

Create your own unique shows with animation & audio in real time!

Simply pick out your actors & backdrops, drag them on to the stage, & tap record. Your movements & audio will be recorded in real time for playback later.



This app is as fun as your own creativity. Act out a story of pirates on the high seas, fight as scary monsters, or play the part of a Wild West bandit on the loose. You can even combine any characters however you want!

Your creations are only limited by your imagination. The app is free, but you have the option to buy more character themes through the app.

The elementary school has **Puppet Pals** synced on all the iPods Touches.

Check them out...literally.

<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/puppet-pals-for-iphone/id395844666?mt=8>



Website 2 Check out Flocabulary

www.flocabulary.com

Flocabulary produces educational hip-hop music & engaging curricular materials to teach academic content for grades K-12. They have been featured on *The Today Show*, & *Oprah*. They offer music & videos for vocabulary, reading, writing, social studies, math, & science. Most of the content has to be bought, but they do offer some FREE songs (one from each series), videos, & services.

Here is a list of songs, videos, & services:

- **The Week in Rap** (weekly raps over current events):
<http://theweekinrap.com/>
- I Ate Eight – *Math Rap: Level One*
- Know Your Twos – *Math Rap: Level Two*
- Confessions of a Planet – *Beats, Rhymes, & Science*
- Let Freedom Ring – *Hip-Hop U.S. History*
- Middle Ages Asia – *Hip-Hop History of the World (Part 1)*
- The Word Up Project
- Transformation – *SAT Vocabulary*
- The Merry Wanderer (A Midsummer Nights Dream) – *Shakespeare is Hip-Hop*
- Check out more FREE material under "Free Teacher Resources."



Google™ for Educators:

www.google.com/educators/tools



Online word processor, spreadsheet & presentation editor that enables you & your students to create, store & share documents instantly. Collaborate online in real time, all your work is stored safely & can be accessed from any computer. Students can get feedback easily from teachers & enter updates anytime. Users can go back to the revisions history to see how their assignment has evolved & who has helped.

User Friendly! Step-by-step guide on how to use Google Docs in your classroom:

https://docs.google.com/View?docid=dcdn7mjj_72nh25vq

Tools for Your Classroom:

Blogger • Calendar • Docs • Groups • Page Creator • Picasa • SketchUp • Gmail • Talk • Sites • Book Search • Geo Education • News • iGoogle • Web Search • Custom Search Engine • Notebook • Picnik



ActivINSPIRE: Design Mode



In the upper right hand corner of your Inspire screen there is a little blue box that almost looks like a snowflake. This is the **Design Mode** button. It allows you to edit the objects on your page by removing their properties. Meaning a locked object is now unlocked & can be moved about your page.

Once you click on it, it will turn orange in color. Be sure to click on it again to turn it blue before you show or use your flipchart. Great to use while designing flipcharts!

Design mode,

- Allows locked objects to be edited
- Shows hidden objects
- Highlights actions with a red box
- Disables actions & **Drag a Copy**
- Disables object restrictions
- Disables blocker objects
- Disables grid snapping

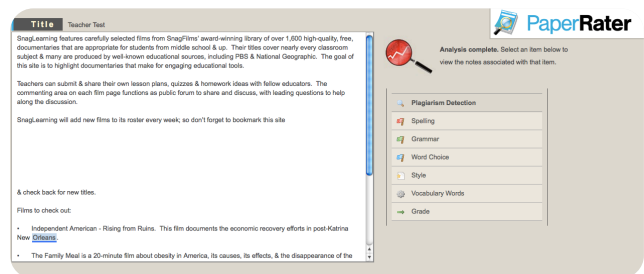


PaperRater: www.paperrater.com

PaperRater is a web tool that offers a vigorous grammar checker to find mistakes & correct them. It can also check to see if a student's paper contains plagiarized text. Most recently, the site has added a feature that will try to make suggestions so that students can actually improve their work. It analyzes documents immediately, 24/7, in real-time. They provide in depth analysis to help the student improve grammar & writing. Some of their features include,



- Plagiarism detection
- Auto grader
- Spelling & grammar check
- Style & word choice analysis
- Readability statistics
- Title validation
- Vocabulary builder tool



In a world where some students need a little extra help with their writing or some guidance as to how to be a good digital citizen & not lift information in the improper way, PaperRater is a wonderful tool for students in & out of the classroom - plus it is easy to use & free.

Teacher Feature: Stephanie Bach

Mrs. Bach is a 2nd grade teacher in our elementary school. She uses simple tools to integrate technology into her lessons to impact student learning. She & other second teachers have had their students blog. Using **KidBlog** (<http://kidblog.org>) Mrs. Bach has her students blog weekly to practice complete sentences, as well as making math-to-real world connections.

Along with blogging she has her students creating a digital fable story via **Keynote**. In the next few weeks, her students will be producing a presentation about animals with **Blabberize** to convey their information. Blabberize

(<http://edu.blabberize.com>) is a free website that turns photos & images into talking picture videos.